

Tools for Wilderness Education and Interpretation

The National Park Service Wilderness Resource Notebook is designed to provide a broad range of timesaving tools for the development of quality wilderness education and interpretation products. Products included and programs described may be adapted to park-specific needs or used to provide examples when planning new wilderness education and interpretation materials.

As wilderness educational and interpretive materials are developed, keep in mind the following goal and objectives. These have been approved by an interagency wilderness education committee as a standard for all wilderness education programs. For further guidance in developing programs and products, refer to park-specific themes and to Interpretive Development Model guidelines.

Goal:

To preserve the resources and values of designated wilderness by fostering development of a personal stewardship ethic for the National Wilderness Preservation System through increased awareness, knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of wilderness.

Objectives:

By the end of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Define wilderness according to the Wilderness Act.
2. Explain why the Wilderness Act was established.
3. State who establishes wilderness areas, where wilderness areas are, and who manages wilderness areas.
4. Differentiate between wilderness areas and other public lands.
5. List three benefits of wilderness areas (reservoirs of biological diversity, scientific value, watersheds, life support systems, historic and cultural values, spiritual values, aesthetic values, recreation, refuge, and education values).

TOOLS IN THE NPS WILDERNESS EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION RESOURCE NOTEBOOK

Wilderness Video

Wild By Law - Produced by the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center in cooperation with Florentine Films and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, this VHS video is an excellent overview of wilderness preservation history. Highlighting events and individuals instrumental in the passage of the Wilderness Act, the video also presents viewpoints opposing wilderness designation. (Video runs 52 minutes and features closed captions.)

NPS Wilderness Site Bulletin

Produced as part of the NPS Wilderness Resource Notebook, this publication is designed to provide a general introduction on wilderness to traditional park visitors who have little or knowledge about wilderness. A map of the National Wilderness Preservation System is featured, along with information on the Wilderness Act. The site bulletin is included on a compact disk for electronic distribution.

NPS Wilderness Park Newspaper Article

This template offers guidance in developing park newspaper articles on wilderness. The article is provided on the compact disk so that wilderness parks may customize the information for park-specific use.

Sample Wilderness Education and Interpretation Products and Programs

Wilderness parks in the National Park Service are creating an exciting variety of informational, educational, and interpretive programs and materials for park visitors, outreach audiences,

Internet visitors, and education program participants. Examples in this notebook range from interpretive program outlines to posters and backcountry brochures. Ideas from these samples may be incorporated into existing media, programs, and events to enhance park-specific wilderness messages. Electronic files of these items are included on the accompanying compact disk.

Wilderness Quotations

Insights, remarks, and writings from notable individuals involved in the idea of wilderness are included in this section of the notebook, along with excerpts from significant wilderness legislation. These quotations may serve as a reservoir of inspiration when developing park-specific wilderness materials, or they may be incorporated directly into the content of publications and other products. Quotations also serve as excellent graphic elements when the appropriate typographical treatment is applied, such as an interesting typeface or color.

Site-Specific Wilderness Education and Interpretation Materials

As additional materials are gathered to develop informational, interpretive, and educational products highlighting park-specific wilderness subjects, such items may be added to this section of the notebook for further reference. Including information on contacts such as field area experts, authors, artists, and educators can assist in the development of future products and programs.

National Wilderness Preservation System Map

Produced by the Wilderness Society, Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, and the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, this oversized map was designed by National Geographic Maps/Trails Illustrated in December, 1999. Wilderness areas included on the United States map (from 1964-1999) are highlighted by color according to land management agency. Additional information is provided on acreage, year of establishment, and administrative agency unit.

Compact Disk

A compact disk includes electronic files of documents featured in each section of this notebook. Also included are electronic files of the sample products featured in Section VI of this notebook, Wilderness Education and Interpretation Tools. Additional references on the compact disk include the following:

Wilderness Act

- *The Wilderness Act, 1964* - Text of the Wilderness Act.
- *The Wilderness Act—For the Permanent Good* - PowerPoint training presentation by Laura Cheek, Wilderness Education Specialist, Shenandoah National Park. This general program features slides with corresponding presenter notes. Designed as an introductory program for interagency audiences, this presentation may be edited for park-specific purposes or used for general reference.

Subsequent Wilderness Legislation

- *Eastern Wilderness Areas Act, 1975* - Text of the Eastern Wilderness Areas Act.
- *Endangered American Wilderness Act, 1978* - Public Law 95-237.
- *Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, 1980* - ANILCA text.
- *Arizona Wilderness Act, 1984* - Text of the Arizona Wilderness Act.
- *California Wilderness Act, 1984* - Text of the California Wilderness Act.
- *California Desert Protection Act, 1994* - Text of the California Desert Protection Act.

Minimum Requirements

- *ACNWTC Minimum Requirement Decision Guide* - Document produced by the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center to guide minimum requirement decision-making.
- *Minimum Requirement Concept and Minimum Requirement Decision Guide* - PowerPoint training presentations by Laura Cheek, Wilderness Education Specialist, Shenandoah National Park. These programs feature slides with corresponding presenter notes. Designed as an introductory program for interagency audiences, these presentations may be edited for park-specific purposes or used for general reference.
- *Shenandoah National Park Wilderness Minimum Requirements Decision Guide* - Document featuring park-specific minimum requirement information.
- *Defining Minimum Requirements for Administering Wilderness Areas Within the California Desert* - Document featuring detailed minimum requirement information for California desert wilderness areas.
- *Minimum Requirement Analysis Worksheet for Rocky Mountain National Park* - Document used to determine park-specific minimum requirements.

Annual Report on Wilderness

- *NPS Annual Wilderness Report, 2002-2003* - Full-color publication prepared by the National Park Service National Wilderness Steering Committee, July 2003.

Wilderness Fact Sheet

- *Wilderness—A Fact Sheet* - One-page summary of wilderness-related facts including a definition of wilderness, statistics on the National Wilderness Preservation System, and information on NPS wilderness.

Natural Sound Environments

- *Wild Soundscapes in the National Parks: An Educational Program Guide to Listening and Recording* - Natural sound activity guidebook by Bernard L. Krause, Ph.D.

